

HOUSE BILL 253

By Moore

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary
financial assistance for military personnel from net
lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§49-4-9__.

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Member of the armed services" means a citizen of Tennessee who is
a member of the armed forces of the United States, or a member of a reserve or
Tennessee national guard unit who is called into active military service of the
United States, as defined in §58-1-102; and

(2) "Veteran" means a former member of the armed services.

(b) To be eligible for a Tennessee combat veteran's scholarship, a student who
is a member of the armed services or a veteran shall:

(1) Have served honorably in active military service of the United States
in a combat zone during hostilities in which military personnel are entitled to
combat compensation as determined by the United States department of
defense;

(2) Have established Tennessee as the member's or veteran's home of
record prior to being deployed to a combat zone;

(3) Meet requirements to be considered an in-state student by the
Tennessee board of regents or the University of Tennessee system at the time of
application for the scholarship;

(4) Not be ineligible for the scholarship under §49-4-904; and

(5) Have not received a baccalaureate degree from any educational institution.

(c) A student shall not be required to meet any academic standard to initially receive a Tennessee combat veteran's scholarship. To continue to receive a Tennessee combat veteran's scholarship, a student shall meet the requirements of §49-4-911, except that any continuation grade point average shall be calculated using only semester hours attempted after receipt of the Tennessee combat veteran's scholarship.

(d) A student may receive a Tennessee combat veteran's scholarship until the first of the following events occurs:

(1) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree; or

(2) The student has attempted at any postsecondary institution a total of one hundred fifty (150) semester hours. Only semester hours attempted after enrolling in an eligible postsecondary institution as a recipient of a Tennessee combat veteran's scholarship shall count towards the limit of this subdivision.

(e) Recipients of Tennessee combat veteran's scholarships may enroll as either full-time or part-time students. Recipients need not be continuously enrolled.

(f) A Tennessee combat veteran's scholarship shall pay from net lottery proceeds the amount remaining of the institutionally defined total cost of education at the eligible postsecondary institution that the scholarship recipient is attending after any federal or other state financial assistance to which the recipient is entitled as a member of the armed forces or as a veteran or any other scholarship funds for which the recipient is eligible have been applied.

(g) No retroactive award of a Tennessee combat veteran's scholarship shall be made under this section.

(h) Scholarships awarded under this section shall not commence prior to fall semester, 2007.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.